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The Beginnings of the Revolution IN New Hampshire

Henry M. Baker

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Henry M. Baker.

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE REVOLUTION

IN

NEW HAMPSHIRE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN CONCORD, N. H., JULY 9, 1903

BY

HENRY M. BAKER

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY

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THE BEGINNINGS OF THE REVOLUTION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Compatriots, Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the close of the French and Indian War England had no more loyal colony than New Hampshire. In proportion to her population and resources no colony had rendered the mother country more efficient service. Her yeomen were skilled in all the essentials of frontier life. They were self-reliant, patriotic, and self-sacrificing. They were accustomed to the harsh climate of northern New England and the demands of a winter dominating nearly half of the year. By incessant toil they won subsistence from an ungenerous and exacting soil. They knew how to hunt the wild beasts of the forest, and how to defend themselves against the attacks of the relentless red man. There was no titled nobility among them, living upon inherited estates, but those of every class and condition felt the necessity of personal service as a condition precedent to the confidence and esteem of their fellow-citizens. Helpful service was universal. Neither women or half-grown children were exceptions. The whole community was active, and each in his own way, according to his capacity, contributed to the general prosperity of the colony. Peace having come, and with it immunity from Indian raids, so that the husbandman could work in safety, contentment and aspiration filled the hearts of our ancestors, and New Hampshire made rapid strides in population and wealth.

All the New England colonies were prosperous and loyal. Each had been granted a share in its government, the popular branch of its legislature, under the designation of "the assembly," being elected by the people. All grants of money for public uses received the sanction of the assembly, and generally such grants originated with the representatives of the people. Thus the colonists had been educated to believe that they controlled their own purse strings, and that their consent was essential to lawful taxation.

The wars in which England had been engaged had left her deeply in debt, and king and ministry were in doubt how to raise the money of which the government had sore need. The prosperity and increasing wealth of the colonies were well known in the mother country. The king regarded the colonists as subjects without home rights or privileges, but under his absolute control, and in duty bound to help the parent country as and when required. His ideas of their obligations and duties were not limited by their claims to the rights inherent in Englishmen under Magna Charta or otherwise. He entertained no doubt that his will and the needs of the kingdom, as decided by the ministry, were mandatory and final.

On the other hand, the colonists insisted that they were Englishmen, and that they had neither yielded or lost any of their rights as such by settlement in America; that at home no tax could be levied or collected but in pursuance of the act or consent of the house of commons, in which all resident Englishmen were directly or indirectly represented; that, as neither the king nor parliament had provided such representation for them, they could not be taxed lawfully against their will, and that, as taxation without representation is tyranny, they could not, as self-respecting Englishmen, consent to it. Between vassalage and representative government there is a great gulf fixed. On the one side are the standards of power and prerogative, on the other the banners of liberty and law. Hence the differences which separated the king and the colonists were based upon principles for which each contended as a matter of right. The people could not yield and preserve their manhood and integrity as Englishmen. The king regarded them as rebels denying him his rightful authority.

There seems to have been no earnest attempt to meet the issue by granting colonial representation, or by compromise measures or agreements which should be beneficial to king and people. In England the king and ministry held the enactments of parliament concerning the colonies as conclusive and final. During all the discussions in parliament no authoritative assurance was given that England would abandon its purpose to tax America. The necessity for the revenue such taxation was expected to produce was uniformly asserted by those in power. The right of parliament to tax the colonists seems not to have been doubted by king or ministry.

The Americans hoped against hope, and were loath to believe that England could persist in taxation without granting representation. So, when parliament levied duties upon their imports and restricted their trade with the West Indies, they not only refrained from such

trade but intentionally neglected to trade with England, and satisfactorily met the issue by non-importation and non-consumption agreements among themselves.

There was much discussion in parliament upon the advisability of enacting a Stamp Act for America, the minority opposing it being active and outspoken. The substance of the argument for and against it was well known to the colonists. The feeling of resentment and bitterness engendered by the act in restraint of trade was increased by the expressions of hostility in parliament while the Stamp Act was under consideration. So the colonists were in no pleasant mood for the reception of the Stamp Act when the news of its enactment was received, and the determination to resist its enforcement was practically universal.

In England taxation by stamps was regarded with much favor because it involved slight expense, required few officers, and "executed itself," as, by the terms of the Stamp Act, the proceedings of the courts and in public offices, and the business transactions of individuals, would not be legal without the statutory stamps. It never occurred to the ministry that the colonial courts and people would so universally repudiate them that no one would dare to question the invalidity of unstamped legal or business papers. That result astounded king and ministry and the whole English nation. The Stamp Act became operative on the first day of November, 1765. *The New Hampshire Gazette*, printed then, as now, at Portsmouth, appeared the evening before in black. Quite a company of men from the country marched toward Portsmouth to prevent the use of the stamps, and dispersed only when duly informed that none would be used.

George Meserve of Portsmouth, son of the colonel who died at Louisbourg, was in England when the act was passed, and received the appointment of stamp agent for New Hampshire. His coming to execute his office was carefully watched, and before he was permitted to land he was compelled to resign his commission and to take an oath that he would neither directly or indirectly attempt to execute his office. The stamps intended for New Hampshire were shipped to Boston without being landed. No other attempt was made to force the stamps upon our people. The committee of Portsmouth voted that Meserve was "an enemy to the liberties of America." Subsequently he petitioned the assembly for compensation for the injuries he claimed to have suffered. The committee of the assembly, in reporting upon his request, said he had suffered no real damage either

in person or property, and that when any danger had been expected guards had been appointed to protect him. His petition was dismissed.

Parliament repealed the Stamp Act on the 18th day of March, 1766. It had been operative less than five months, and had yielded no revenue. Every attempt to collect revenue from the colonies had been frustrated. Had England sought peace with her colonies, and offered them representation in parliament, the conflict would have ended, for the colonies were anxious for reconciliation.

With the repeal of the Stamp Act the secretary of state of Great Britain sent a circular letter to the colonies in which he enlarged upon "the lenity and tenderness, the moderation and forbearance of parliament toward the colonies," and reminded them of their duty to show "respectful gratitude and cheerful obedience" in consideration of such a "signal display of indulgence and affection."

This letter was placed before the assembly by Governor Wentworth with conservative and conciliatory statements.

The people were wild with joy. They felt relieved from an unjust burden, and again trusted that the hope of their hearts for self-taxation had been recognized and would be realized, but the more thoughtful were troubled by the assertion of parliament that it had the right and power "to bind America in all cases whatsoever," and by the fact that the resolves of the colonial assemblies denying the right of parliament to tax the colonies, and asserting their sole right to tax themselves, had been annulled. The wiser of the patriots were apprehensive that parliament, as well as the king, was hostile, and that the repeal of the Stamp Act was a political act not based upon principle but policy, and that it would be followed by other orders and enactments equally burdensome and quite as subversive of the principles for which they were contending.

While the popular mind was tending toward rejoicing, and hope was slowly taking the place of fear, Gov. Benning Wentworth was permitted to resign and John Wentworth was appointed governor. Like his uncle and predecessor he was born in Portsmouth, and knew the needs and wishes of the people. He was deservedly popular, and by example and patronage fostered education, agriculture, and the varied interests of the colony. He was popular at home and in England. The Lords of Trade said of him that since his appointment the colony had been in a state of peace and prosperity, and its commerce extended and increased. He was energetic and courteous, and the people contrasted with favor his official bearing with that of the gov-

ernors of other colonies. The success of his early administration, combined with his personal popularity, turned the minds of many, where all desired peace and loyalty, from public affairs to local improvements. So when parliament renewed its efforts to enforce taxation without representation, and imposed duties on paper, glass, painters' colors, and tea, our people were slow to evince open hostility or to become excited over the new assault upon their liberties. Many of the rich and influential families of Portsmouth counseled moderation, and opposed non-importation agreements, but when the other colonies took decided action in opposition to the new taxes New Hampshire joined them. Soon the agreements became popular, and were a test of loyalty to home government in home affairs. The opposition to the new tax was not as noisy as it had been to the Stamp Act, but it was better organized and more universal in the different colonies. The agreements were so well kept that the manufacturers in Great Britain found their market seriously endangered, and urged the repeal of the new law. This was done except as to tea. With this repeal came a relaxation of the opposition, and again the colonists hoped there would be no further repressive legislation and that peace and goodwill would prevail. But the duty on tea remained and became the rock upon which the ship of state foundered.

When Governor Wentworth asked the assembly for a stated and liberal salary there was much delay in granting it, as some feared the tax on tea was in some unexplained way connected with the expenses of the colonies for the salaries of officers of the crown. Hence the assembly refused to make provision for the governor's salary and house rent beyond one year at a time.

The non-importation agreements had had their effect. The warehouses of the East India Company were filled with tea for which there was no market. The plans of the ministry and the company had failed. Therefore a new scheme was adopted. Parliament removed the duty on the exportation of tea, and authorized the company to ship it to America upon payment of a duty of only threepence per pound. This would enable the company to sell tea in America cheaper than ever before, and it was hoped that the decrease in price would overcome the objections of the colonists. The result was unexpected. The colonists were filled with distrust and alarm, for they recognized that the new legislation was an attempt to outwit them and to bribe them to consume tea upon which duty had been paid. The right for which parliament contended was hostile to the principle which they asserted. One or the other must fail. The price of the

tea was immaterial. The principle involved was essential, and would determine the fate of nations. A crisis was at hand. The virtue and integrity of the people and the right of self-government were involved. The people met the issue grandly. As if by a common instinct all classes refused the bribe. The prudence and popularity of Governor Wentworth could not withstand the people's censure of the home government. The endeavor to accomplish by indirect means that which had failed by direct enactment aroused and consolidated whatever of the spirit of liberty had remained dormant. The people had determined not to raise revenue for the support of a government in which they could not participate. Therefore they would not buy tea at any price. Governor Wentworth wrote the Earl of Dartmouth under date of August 29, 1774: "The inhabitants have now almost universally discontinued the use of Bohea tea, and I apprehend will entirely within three months of this date." The non-importation and non-consumption agreements were faithfully kept. There were two attempts to land tea at Portsmouth. The first importation, consisting of twenty-seven chests, had been landed and stored in the custom house before the people knew such action was intended. The people met in town-meeting and required its consignee to reship it to Halifax. This was peacefully done. When, less than three months later, the second cargo of thirty chests arrived, consigned to the same party, much greater excitement prevailed; the windows of his house were broken, and he was compelled to send it to Halifax by the ship in which it was brought. Thus ended the final attempt to force taxed tea upon our people. Day by day they became more excited and determined. Committees were appointed to prevent future importations, and to arouse and consolidate public sentiment against the hostile acts of the British ministry. They were faithful and successful. The situation became more alarming each day. It soon became certain that the king was determined to execute the acts of parliament imposing taxes upon America. Boston was selected as an example. Its port was closed to commerce and guarded by ships of war. A military governor ruled the town, and a large garrison was quartered upon its citizens. Business was suspended, and the poor suffered for food. The soldiery was insolent, and a conflict seemed inevitable.

New Hampshire sympathized with her brethren in Massachusetts and sent them help and food. A common cause and a common danger united the people closer than ever before. They remembered the congress that had met in Albany in 1754 to consider matters of importance to the several colonies, and the more frequent meetings in

New England of committees representing the people, and thought the times demanded consultation and combined action. So, when the legislature met in the spring of 1774, the house of representatives of New Hampshire appointed a committee to correspond with like committees of other colonies relative to the proper course to be pursued to maintain the rights they claimed as Englishmen, and to secure united action to resist any attempt to enforce the laws they regarded as unjust and oppressive.

Governor Wentworth used his influence to prevent that action, and, when it was accomplished, adjourned the assembly, and soon after dissolved it. The representatives, upon a summons by the committee, met in their hall, and the governor, attended by the sheriff, appeared. The representatives rose at his entrance. He addressed them, saying their meeting was illegal, and ordered the sheriff to direct all persons to disperse and keep the king's peace, and the sheriff made that proclamation. They then retired, and the representatives resumed their session, but upon discussion of the situation adjourned to another place. There they wrote letters to the several towns in the province asking them to send delegates to a convention to assemble at Exeter July 21, 1774, to choose delegates to a general congress to meet in Philadelphia on the 5th of September, and to send in their share, according to the tax rate, of two hundred pounds to pay the expenses of the delegates to be elected. They also recommended a day of fasting and prayer which was generally observed.

Eighty-five delegates met and elected John Sullivan and Nathaniel Folsom to the continental congress. They also expressed their sympathy with their distressed brethren in Boston, and recommended the towns to send relief.

Governor Wentworth endeavored to preserve the semblance of royal authority, but saw, with great anxiety, his influence with the people steadily decrease. They had committed no violence or outrage and the local laws were respected, but it was evident that loyalty to the crown was fast disappearing. He wrote, "Our hemisphere threatens a hurricane. I have in vain strove, almost to death, to prevent it. If I can at last bring out of it safety to my country and honor to my sovereign, my labors will be joyful." His fears were realized, and he himself unintentionally, probably, added to the excitement and opposition of the hour. General Gage decided to erect barracks in Boston to shield his troops during the approaching New England winter. The carpenters of Boston refused to build them, and were sustained in their refusal by public opinion. General Gage then appealed to

the governors of the neighboring provinces to send him the necessary workmen. Governor Wentworth committed the error of employing a person to secretly secure the desired mechanics. His action soon became known to the committee of Portsmouth, who, without mentioning the governor's name, censured him "as an enemy to the community," and the men who had consented to go as "unworthy of society." His agent was compelled to confess his error and to ask pardon for his misbehavior.

Colonel Folsom and Major Sullivan attended the congress at Philadelphia and were prominent in its deliberations. Its proceedings were dignified and firm, yet peaceful. Everywhere in the colonies this congress was approved, and no colony was better satisfied than New Hampshire. She heartily welcomed her delegates upon their return. The people stood firm in maintenance of the patriotic principles asserted by them, and the feeling that liberty must be preserved at all hazards, even by revolution, was universal. All recognized that the then existing condition of affairs could not be maintained and that bloodshed might soon follow.

No one desired to be disloyal to Great Britain, but all claimed the privileges and immunities they believed were the birthright of Englishmen. They did not love loyalty less but liberty more. Their duty was plain, and they were ready to meet the issue when it should come. They did not have long to wait. An order had been passed by the king in council prohibiting the importation of powder, military stores, and supplies to America, thus plainly showing his distrust of the colonists and his determination to prevent them from securing the means of self-defence. The news of this order was brought to the committee at Portsmouth on the 13th of December, 1774, by Paul Revere, who was sent by the committee at Boston. Nothing had transpired before which so alarmed the colonists. It had been rumored at Portsmouth for several days that a ship-of-war would soon bring reinforcements to Fort William and Mary. Unless the British government was intent upon coercing the colonists there could be no necessity for reinforcing the fort or depriving them of powder and arms.

The committee was confronted by a grave and critical condition of public affairs. It met as soon as possible, and after due deliberation decided upon an attack upon the fort the next day, and the seizure of the powder known to be stored there. That night and early the next day the proposed attack was confided only to those known to be in hearty sympathy with the committee of safety, but by noon all attempt at secrecy was abandoned. Drums were beaten, fifes played, and men

marched and countermarched in the streets openly proclaiming their purpose.

Governor Wentworth was powerless, but ordered the chief justice of the province to proclaim to the people that an attack upon the fort would be rebellion and treason against the king. This proclamation seems to have had little or no effect, for soon after it was made some four hundred men under the leadership of John Langdon, in broad daylight marched to the fort, and, though fired upon by its small garrison, overpowered them, detained them as prisoners in their own fort, and hauled down the king's colors. They captured 103 barrels of powder, with which they returned to Portsmouth, and that evening sent it with a letter signed by John Langdon to Major Sullivan at Durham for safe keeping.

The next day, Thursday the 15th, as soon as the news of the assault upon the fort reached them, men from the adjoining towns hastened into Portsmouth. Among the first to arrive was Major Sullivan with some two score men from Durham. Soon a meeting was held and a committee chosen, of which Sullivan was one, to visit the governor and ask him if he had sent for any reinforcements, or if he expected any troops or ships to arrive at Portsmouth. He spoke earnestly of the grave offense which had been committed the night before, assured them he could not promise pardon to any engaged in the assault upon the fort, but sagaciously added that if the powder was returned that act would be regarded as "an alleviation of the offence," and closed by asserting that he knew of neither troops or ships coming into the province. The people, these assurances being reported to them, appeared to be satisfied, and many returned to their homes, but Sullivan, with a sufficient number of men, remained, and at night again captured the fort and took away fifteen 4-pounders, one 9-pounder, all the small arms, and a quantity of shot.

At noon of the day following the first assault the governor had ordered the commanding officers of the militia "to enlist or impress thirty effective men to serve His Majesty as a guard and protection to his Fort William and Mary." They made return that night that they had paraded the streets, had drums beaten and proclamation made, but that no person appeared to enlist. He had done all he could to protect the fort and the honor of his sovereign, but was powerless.

On Friday, the 16th of the month, Colonel Folsom arrived with "a great number of armed men" from Exeter, and assisted in removing the captured cannon and shot to a place of safety.

Thus it appears that both of our delegates to the first continental

congress were personally connected with the capture of the military stores from the fort, and hence were the first of these delegates to actually bear arms against the king.

That the assault and capture of Fort William and Mary, the hauling down of the British flag, and the removal of the powder, cannon, and arms therefrom was the first deliberate overt act of hostility to the king in the Revolution is too well known and authenticated to need proof. It was not an act in defense of an attack, but was itself an attack made by men who knew the nature and effect of their conduct and did not shrink from its consequences. They felt that their necessities were great, and that the time and occasion demanded heroic action. Subsequent events fully justified them. The prompt and decisive way in which they responded to the first indication that the mother country had decided to diminish, possibly to destroy, their capacity to defend themselves is one of the notable events in the history of liberty. We cannot tell its story too often or commend it too much.

A few days later His Majesty's ships *Canceaux* and *Scarborough* arrived off Portsmouth from Boston with about one hundred soldiers for the double purpose of dismantling the fort and threatening the people. The *Scarborough* soon detained two vessels laden with provisions, and took them to Boston against the advice of the governor and the remonstrances of the people. Their cargoes were retained for the use of the troops.

When this became known at Portsmouth a party of armed men captured the battery on Jerry's point and removed 8 cannon of 24 and 32-pound calibre. These cannon were subsequently mounted in Forts Washington and Sullivan for the defense of Portsmouth.

The second provincial congress met at Exeter on the 25th of January, 1775, and elected John Sullivan and John Langdon delegates to the continental congress, and provided £250 to pay their expenses.

An address to the people was issued, and a letter sent to Governor Wentworth as follows:

"Governor Gage, in a letter to the Earl of Dartmouth, dated 27th January, 1775, informed the British Ministry that your Excellency, had applied to him for two regiments of the British troops, to be stationed at Portsmouth: and as it evidently appears, at this alarming period, that the British troops are ministerial tools sent to America to endeavor to enforce unconstitutional and tyrannical Acts of the British Parliament by fire, sword and famine, and as we humbly conceive it is your Excellency's duty in your political capacity, to guard and defend the lives, liberty and properties of the inhabitants of this

Province, your Excellency's sending for troops to destroy the lives, liberties and properties you have solemnly engaged to defend and protect conveys to our minds such shocking ideas, that we shall rejoice to find what is represented to be fact in said letter, to be farce. But as we have such information, duty to ourselves and constituents, obliges us humbly to desire your Excellency to give us such evidence as will enable us to know and inform our constituents what to expect."

A committee on correspondence was elected, with power to call another congress when necessary.

The winter passed in doubt and anxiety, with no practical results. Boston had been garrisoned with officers and men who despised the provincials, who, in turn, regarded the troops as enemies. Those of the citizens who could do so abandoned the city and found homes in the country. Wherever they went they told a story of scorn, insult, and oppression, which kept the people in bitterness toward the English.

With the early spring came ships from England bearing word that the petition of congress had been favorably received by the king, and that the merchants of England were favorable to the American cause. A ray of hope revived the colonists and relieved the gloom which had so long overshadowed them. It was of short duration, for soon later and more reliable despatches informed them parliament had voted that Massachusetts was in rebellion, and that the other colonies were aiding her; that the lords and commons had addressed the king, assuring him of their support and asking him to enforce their revenue laws upon the colonists; that the king was increasing his forces by sea and land; that troops of all kinds had been ordered to America; that the commerce of New England was to be further restricted and various prohibitive orders issued. The colonists were in despair, and abandoned all hope of peace with honor and safety. A resort to arms appeared inevitable, and they began to prepare for the conflict.

The third provincial congress met at Exeter on the 21st of April, 1775, with 68 delegates in attendance. This congress approved of the capture of Fort William and Mary and the battery at Jerry's point, and passed votes of thanks to those who had secured the powder and guns from them. It also expressed the wish of the people to the members of the state assembly which had been convened by the governor.

Meanwhile American affairs had absorbed much of the time and attention of the British parliament. On the 20th of February, 1775, Lord North arose in his place and said in part:

"To be explicit, then, as to my own opinion, I must say, that if the dispute in which the Americans have engaged goes to the whole of our authority, we can enter into no negotiation, we can meet no compromise. If it be only as to the suspension of the exercise of our right, or as to the mode of laying and raising taxes for a contribution towards the common defense, I think it would be just, it would be wise to meet any fair proposition, which may come in an authentic way from any Province or Colony: and on this ground it is that I shall propose to the Committee the following Resolution:

"'That it is the opinion of this Committee, that when the Governor, Council and Assembly or General Court of any of His Majesty's Provinces or Colonies in America, shall propose to make provision, according to the condition, circumstances and situation of such Province or Colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defence (such proportion to be raised under the authority of the General Court or General Assembly of such Province or Colony and disposable by Parliament), and shall engage to make provision also for the support of the Civil Government, and the administration of justice in such Province or Colony, it will be proper, if such proposal shall be approved by His Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament, and for so long as such provision shall be made accordingly, to forbear, in respect of such Province or Colony, to levy any Duty, Tax or Assessment, or to impose any further Duty, Tax or Assessment, except only such Duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy or to impose for the regulation of commerce; the nett produce of the Duties last mentioned to be carried to the account of such Province or Colony respectively.'"

It was the evident purpose of Lord North, and of parliament in adopting his resolutions, to encourage the loyalty of those in America who had sustained its enactments and the acts of George the Third, and, if possible, to divide and weaken the patriots. The resolutions were heralded by those in authority as a proposition for home rule, and in themselves presented some plausible suggestions upon which compromise seemed possible. But when Lord North's speech introducing the resolutions was received, and it became known, also, that the British troops were to remain, and those who had been prominent in the patriot cause were to be punished, the colonists had every reason to continue to believe parliament hostile to them.

Governor Wentworth endeavored to the last, to use his own words, "to plant the root of peace in New Hampshire." As soon as he had received an official copy of the resolutions he summoned a new assem-

bly of the colony to meet at Portsmouth May 4th, 1775, but made the grave error of including in the writs of election three new towns, which he hoped would send members favorable to his purpose, and neglected to authorize elections in older towns of greater population.

In his speech at the opening of the assembly the governor addressed them as "the only legal and constitutional representatives of the people," and urged them to "an affectionate reconciliation with the Mother country." The house shrewdly asked time for consultation with their constituents, and the governor reluctantly adjourned them until the 12th of the next month. When the assembly reconvened according to adjournment the governor spoke in behalf of reconciliation, and again advised the acceptance of the propositions contained in the resolutions of Lord North. In its reply to the governor's speech the house asserted its desire for reconciliation and peace "upon a just, solid, and permanent basis," and added, "But we are apprehensive the settlement of the present distressing difficulties is an object of such magnitude, and a matter of such general concernment to all the Colonies, as far exceeds our circumscribed power and influence." The house then proceeded to expel the three members from the new towns, whereupon the governor adjourned the assembly to the 11th day of July.

One of the expelled members very injudiciously expressed himself upon the street in Portsmouth quite freely in hostility to the house and people, and was assaulted by the patriots, whereupon he took refuge in the governor's house. The people demanded him from the governor and were refused. They then brought a mounted gun to his door and renewed their demand, when he was surrendered and taken to Exeter. The governor was indignant at the insult he had received, and retired to the fort, from which, in July, he sent a message to the assembly adjourning it to the 28th of September, and soon after sailed to Boston, where he remained until September, when he came to the Isles of Shoals, staying only long enough to issue a proclamation adjourning the assembly to April of the next year. This was his last act as governor, and with it kingly power ceased in New Hampshire.

Meanwhile, events had transpired which made reconciliation, or compromise, impossible. The expedition ordered by General Gage to capture and destroy the military stores and supplies of the colonists at Concord, and the conflicts with the patriots at Lexington and Concord, the spontaneous uprising of the people in all the colonies, the investment of Boston, and the battle at Bunker hill followed in quick succession. The liberties of the people were in the keeping of the god of battles.

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